

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on December 27, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claim 17 is amended and claim 18 is cancelled. Claims 1-17 and 19-23 are now pending in this application.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Parodi (U.S. Patent No. 5,820,595).

Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,468,239).

Applicant respectfully traverse the rejections, but has elected to amend claim 17 to include the subject matter recited in dependent claim 18 to obtain a notice of allowance on allowed claims 1-11 and pending claims 17 and 19-23.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 17 and 19-23.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-11.

Claims 18, 20, 21 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 17 to include all the subject matter recited in claim 18. Applicant request reconsideration and allowance of amended independent claim 17 and dependent claims 19-23 thereto.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at (612) 236-0122 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 22nd day of February, 2007.

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Date: Feb. 22, 2007